

that benighted Continent and the human race. Our own government, which has so lately effaced the stain of slavery from the Republic, has its duty in this matter, which should be prompt to execute. All the civilized nations owe it to themselves and to the race to put a speedy and effective stop to this relic of the dark days of barbarism. Let it not be said that in the last quarter of the nineteenth century human beings were hunted like beasts of prey, and thousands of captives carried from friends and home into involuntary and perpetual servitude, while other thousands lost their lives in vain resistance to the relentless hunters.

Mayor Hall's Trial—The Lessons of the Past.

Mayor Hall's trial ended yesterday in the disagreement of the jury, seven of whom are said to have been in favor of a technical verdict of wilful neglect of official duty in omitting to audit certain accounts, without any fraudulent intent, and five for absolute acquittal. After their discharge the jury conversed freely in relation to the case, and their foreman stated the point of disagreement to have been on the "wilfulness" of the neglect alleged against the Mayor. No jurymen, however, suggested or wished to suggest that the Mayor had committed any fraudulent act. Two jurymen asserted that they had themselves done the acts charged as offences against Mayor Hall, in signing checks and warrants without personal examination, on the certificate of a duly appointed auditor, whose honesty they had no reason to doubt. From first to last it appears that no dishonest or corrupt motive had been shown on the part of Mayor Hall, and that if neglect of duty had been established it would only have been a neglect growing out of common practice with which all former Mayors may have been equally chargeable, and which, without a complete change in our municipal government, future Mayors will be practically unable to avoid. The business of auditing accounts occupies a large clerical force in the Comptroller's office. If the Mayor is to do the same work over again nothing is more certain than that he will require similar assistance, unless the wheels of the government are to be blocked. If Mayor Hall had supposed that all his associates in office were corrupt he would not doubt have subjected the papers placed before him for his signature to a close and rigid scrutiny. As he believed them to be honest he accepted their official acts as faithfully performed, and signed the warrants, and the people will regard the result of the trial as satisfactory.

Two lessons may be learned from this prosecution of Mayor Hall and its termination. The one teaches us that the attempt to turn any great public question to political purposes is as unwise as it is unjust; the other cautions us against allowing long-continued custom to render us too confident and careless in the discharge of a public trust. When the exposure of the official frauds on the City Treasury first took place the political wire-workers set their organs at the task of turning it to partisan advantage. Every member of the city government and every prominent democrat was denounced indiscriminately as a thief and a felon, and the whole party was held responsible for the crimes of a few of its members. Mayor Hall was depicted in prison dress in vulgar caricatures and subjected to coarse abuse day after day in the party journals. Meanwhile a political bargain was made with the real criminals, and for partisan services rendered they were suffered to escape the consequences of their crimes. The HERALD at the time denounced this perversion of justice; and to-day, while Mayor Hall is not even charged with fraud, and his conviction for a simple neglect of duty cannot be obtained from a jury of unusual intelligence and honesty, the really guilty parties are at large, shielded by the politicians, and enjoying their stolen wealth. If the political traders and bargainers had not been suffered to meddle with the matter every sensible citizen is now well convinced that the dishonest officials and their accomplices who committed the felonies would have been in the State Prison paying the penalties of their offences against the law. To-day they are at liberty, and the farce of Tuesday's trial has been postponed "until after election," as we predicted it would be; but, then, a number of patriotic politicians are in possession of snug offices, and another batch is striving to ride up to the public crib on the old hack of municipal reform.

We do not justify the carelessness evident for the past few years on the part of all our city officials and of others whose business or position must have made them familiar with the large amounts being paid out to such men as Ingalls, Garvey and their associates. We do not justify Mayor Hall in doing as his predecessors did and taking for granted the honesty of men who were evidently making large fortunes by some means or another. We hope the lesson of this experience may not be lost on the people or their officers, and that in future all public officials may be held to a strict accountability. But we insist that the result of the Mayor's trial fully justifies the HERALD's condemnation of the prostitution of the reform movement to the purposes of political adventurers and traders, and proves that the indiscriminate abuse of partisan organs, impudently assuming to be the special champions of reform, has resulted in aiding the escape of the real criminals and turning justice into a farce.

CONGRESSMAN AT LARGE—COX ON TREMAIN?—The Albany papers which advocate the election of Mr. Tremain as Congressman at Large base one of their arguments on the fact that that city will thereby have two members instead of one to help her material interests in Congress. This argument applies with much greater force to the city of New York. The HERALD advised the republicans to nominate a man from this city to assist in protecting our great commercial interests, but this advice was not heeded. The city is entitled to the member for the State, and, since the democrats have nominated Mr. Cox, it is even more desirable that we shall have him as one of our representatives. The protective journals at Syracuse, Troy and other places assault him because he tried to make salt and iron cheap to the whole people. That argument, like the Albany argument, cuts both ways. Our shipping interests are necessary to the prosperity of the metropolis, and

Mr. Cox has shown himself among the most effective advocates of free ships, and he has been the firm and consistent friend of our merchants and shipowners. The city of New York believes in his usefulness, and will not allow him to be beaten because he has been faithful to the interests of commerce and the consumer.

DEAD HORSES TO THE NUMBER OF EIGHTY-THREE and a general convalescence, owing to the cool, clear weather, are the outcome of yesterday's report on the epidemic. Brooklyn has suffered more severely in the matter of fatal cases. Great care should be taken in the recovery period, as the dangers of a relapse are serious.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

EX-CONGRESSMAN J. V. L. PRYNE, of Albany, is at the Brevoort House.

General I. W. Bell, of Texas, is stopping at the Grand Central Hotel.

General Lee Wallace, of Indiana, has quarters at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Mayor Charles M. Reed, of Erie, Pa., has arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Senator Blair is confined to his house by sickness. He has been ailing for several days.

Professor Theodore D. Woolsey, of Yale College, yesterday came to the city, and is at the Brevoort House.

John W. Van Valkenburg, of Albany, has been nominated for the Assembly by the democrats and liberals of the Third district.

General W. K. Blair, General Superintendent of the Great Western Railroad of Canada, is among the late arrivals at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Colonel George N. Lester is a candidate for United States Senator from Georgia. There are several other aspirants for the same honor.

A sister of Fanny Fern died recently in Columbus, Ohio. "Leaves have their time to fall," "Fern leaves" as well as all the rest.

The Abilene (Kansas) Chronicle says Governor Harvey is the choice of the Twenty-seventh Senatorial district for United States Senator.

The Jefferson (Texas) Times and Galveston Citizen repudiate Greeley and go for O'Connor and Adams. Out of the frying pan into the fire.

General Banks has been addressing his fellow citizens at Medford, Mass. A meeting in "Old Medford" must have been a very spirited affair.

A wedding is to take place in Philadelphia in December. The bride's dress worth \$10,000. The groom's coat worth \$5,000. The Pope says "Worth makes the man." In the present instance it seems that he also makes the bride.

Mr. De B. Randolph Keim arrived on the steamship Atlantic on Tuesday night. Mr. Keim has been officially investigating the affairs of the United States Consulates in Europe. He has gone to Washington to make his report.

An exchange thinks that the Russian Princess Alexandrovna Troubetskoye instead of joining the Omaha Community ought to get married if only to obtain a change of name. Suppose she should wed Mr. Schufskitz, of Nebraska? Would that be consonant enough?

They have a man in Kentucky seventy-eight years of age who never had the backache or a pain, never swore an oath, never took but one chew of tobacco in his life, gets into convulsion fits at the bare smell of Bourbon whiskey and "has been a farmer and bray-maker all his life." He must have commanded the farming business in the dairy line.

Where are the dummy engines? where are the viaduct roads?—the one-legged railroad, the underground steam railroad and all the other proposed methods of transit between one section of the city and another? Has the day of horse locomotion gone by? The cry now is, in the words of the "crooked back tyrant," slightly amended—

A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse.

If you can't give me a horse, give me a dummy engine.

The St. Louis Democrat has a queer way of dressing up a news item. For example:—"Daniel Thatcher, of Paoli, Kas., loved Miss Ellen Pine, and so did I. M. Purcell. Daniel coiled with Purcell and gave him a tremendous thrashing. Somebody 'laid' for Thatcher and blew off the top of his head. When the fair Ellen was taken to the house where the gory remnants of her dead lover were laid out her first remark was affecting. She said, 'My shipman, have you put up any apple butter yet?'"

ART MATTERS.

Notes Among the Studios.

Julian Scott, the soldier-painter, has almost completed his huge battle piece representing the battle of Cedar Creek. In order to have ready means of reference at hand for the details of his work he painted it at West Point. Owing to the size of the canvas Mr. Scott will be obliged to obtain a new studio before it can be exhibited in New York. Judging from the finished sketch the composition is spirited, and the details and arrangement such as only those who have mingled in the battle shock can thoroughly appreciate. The picture will be as closely as possible a correct representation of the fight. In order to get the topography correct Mr. Scott visited the ground and made elaborate sketches. This will give the work increased value as an authentic representation of the scene. Scott by no means, however, confines himself to the field of Mars, but now and then makes excursions into the domain of Venus. His latest trophy from this source is a pretty woman firing a fan-on canvas. There is not much scope in the work, but it has been intelligently treated.

Heade seems to have abandoned the orchard blossoms in a fit of depression and plunged into the region of the "dismal swamp." The scenery in his new pictures is certainly not a very posthumous subject to treat in a picture at least. So are more associated in our minds with memories of mosquito swarms than with visions of beauty. Yet it is wonderful what an effective picture Mr. Heade has contrived to make out of such commonplace material as a foggy morning on the half doctored fields, with here and there stacks of the brown, coarse-looking meadow hay. The raw, cloudy atmosphere of the morning is happily rendered, and there is a sense of mystery cast over the landscape which comes from the fact that Corey Smith takes us out on the salt deep and lets us enjoy a slice of the pleasant ocean breeze. He is at it again on the picture of Lester Walcott's yacht, the Columbia. He calls it "On the Way to Newport," and the drawing of the trim craft, with all her sails set, seems perfectly satisfactory to the painter's eye. The Columbia forms the most prominent feature of the composition, but a number of the yacht's feet are seen in the distance. The treatment of the water is excellent, and the New Hampshire, and is setting his house in order with that philosophic calm for which he is remarkable. The state of the weather interfered seriously with the success of his operations. He has begun a picture of the Lake of Geneva, showing the town in the hollow and the lake and mountains in the distance.

Hobbs is at work on a pleasing picture giving a distant view of the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain. In the foreground a brook on stepping stones forms a leafy drive, through which we look out on the lake. The yellow and brown foliage of autumn lend a brilliancy to the scene.

De Haas takes us to sea again and shows us a group of vessels becalmed off Point Judith. The scene is full of charm. A dark thunder cloud is settling in the sky, and the sea is threatening to break on the calm of the day, while the sails of the becalmed vessels are illuminated by the morning sun, which has not yet acquired full force. So the picture is judged at the present state of the work it promises to be a charming picture.

William De Haas has almost completed an important marine picture, "After the Storm." It is strongly treated.

Irving is giving the finishing touches to his "Incident in the Life of George Washington." It is the composition and strong in color.

J. G. Brown—"Difficult to Get Over" is the title of a charming picture by this artist. It represents a young girl crossing a brook on stepping stones. Both the figure and the landscape on which it is placed have been painted with the greatest care. The management of the light and shade among the foliage has been admirably treated.

Whitellage has returned from his summer tour with an absolute wealth of sketches. He is at present working on "Scene in Catskills." His intention to devote his time during the winter to painting an important Western subject, and also a poetic one, in which a moonlight courtship will furnish the text of his studies.

Hays is at work on a group of "Mile Deer Going to Drink." This picture derives considerable interest from the fact that his studies of the mile deer have ever been painted before.

ROME AND GENEVA.

Plus the Ninth in Defence of the Episcopal Commission of the Church.

Vatican Canon Against Swiss Civil Law—Monsignor Mermod—His Local Curacy and Eastern Mitro Title.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

ROME, Nov. 1, 1872.

His Holiness Pope Plus the Ninth has resolved to defend the cause of the Church in Geneva against the decree of the Swiss government forbidding the exercise of his episcopal functions within Swiss territory by the recently appointed Catholic Bishop Mermod.

Case of Conflict Between the Triple Crown and the Federated Citizens.

The history of the present conflict of authority between the Pontifical Rome and the federated civil government of Switzerland is of great interest as being illustrative of a case in point which demonstrates the necessity for an exact definition of the relations which should exist between Church and State under all free governments. It may be told in the following order of narrative:—

In the year 1861 M. Gaspard Mermod was appointed Roman Catholic curé of Geneva on the recommendation of the bishop of the diocese, when, according to the law of the canton, he took the oath "to obey and preach obedience to the laws of the land." The same year, however, he received from the Pope, and without the sanction of the State, the title and dignity of Bishop of Hebron, auxiliary of Geneva. Seeing that the Council d'Etat (Council of State of the Swiss Republic) never received official notice of this appointment, it continued to consider him only as the proxy of Mr. Marillet, the head of the diocese of Lausanne, under whose perpetual jurisdiction Geneva is placed by a decree of the Council d'Etat of November 1, 1819.

The Council d'Etat, having informed M. Mermod that it did not recognize his episcopal authority in Geneva, received the answer that "he held his power from the Pope, and that he would exercise it despite the authority of the Council d'Etat." In consequence of the attitude thus taken by M. Mermod, the Council d'Etat, by a decree of the 20th of September, deprived him of his cure, at the same time suppressing the said cure of Geneva until the establishment of a better understanding.

By a second decree of the same date M. Mermod was interdicted from performing any act out of his ordinary jurisdiction either directly or by proxy, as also from performing any religious or civil functions within the territory of Geneva thus declared open war with the Vatican.

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ENGLAND.

Destruction of the Music Hall of Oxford by Fire.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Nov. 1, 1872.